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Ag 84 Pro #297

SOIL BANK Highlights



#297

The SOIL BANK is ready now—to help you on fall-seeded crops. It will be in full operation for the year ahead.

By planning to make sound acreage adjustments, you can earn both Acreage Reserve and Conservation Reserve payments.

Tremendous surpluses are still depressing farm prices and overflowing storage. Immediate measures are needed to check the build-up of these excessive supplies—and start working out from under them.

The SOIL BANK, by encouraging the necessary adjustments, offers a direct attack on this surplus problem. It seeks to reduce stocks to manageable levels—while protecting current farm income.

At the same time, the SOIL BANK offers direct help for constructive long-range conservation developments.

While cooperating with other farmers throughout the country to reach these overall objectives, under the SOIL BANK producers will:

- • • Earn payments to offset any loss of net income from acres taken out of "allotment" crops.
 - • • Get substantial financial assistance for converting general cropland to conservation use.
 - • • Get annual payments over a period of years for the land converted to conservation use.
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Taking part in the SOIL BANK, farmers will help promote stability for American agriculture, with better prices for their products in the market place. They will maintain or increase their current net income. They will improve the production potential of their farms.

The SOIL BANK does not supplant any other national farm programs, such as acreage allotments, price supports, or the Agricultural Conservation Program. Their operations are continued and made more effective.

The SOIL BANK has two parts:

1. The **Acreage Reserve**—to reduce surpluses of the six basic crops—wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco, peanuts, and rice—by adjusting acreages below established “allotments.”
2. The **Conservation Reserve**—to cut back production of Crops in general by shifting acreage to long-range conservation uses.

Farmers taking part in the program will designate (in agreements with the U. S. Department of Agriculture) specific acreage to be included in the Acreage Reserve or the Conservation Reserve, or both.

HOW THE ACREAGE RESERVE WORKS

Farmers who have allotments (or a SOIL BANK corn base acreage) for one or more of the six basic crops for which a program is offered are eligible to take part in the Acreage Reserve.

By planting less than their “allotted” acres of the basic crops, farmers will earn payments to compensate for any loss of current net income.

The per-acre rate of payment will be based on normal yields; therefore, higher-yielding land will bring higher payments. The payments will be made in the form of negotiable certificates. Because the payments will be made on the basis of the normal yield without regard to reductions from drought, flood, or hail, or other crop failure or loss, they will serve as a form of income insurance for the acres in the Reserve.

Land designated for inclusion in the Acreage Reserve may not be cropped, and it may not be grazed except when permission is granted in emergencies. The farmer may be eligible to receive approval of "cost-sharing" under the Agricultural Conservation Program for any approved conservation practices carried out on Acreage Reserve land — in addition to his SOIL BANK payment for reducing production of an "allotment" crop.

There will be top and bottom limits on the amount of "allotment" acreage a farmer may designate for the Acreage Reserve.

HOW THE CONSERVATION RESERVE WORKS

All farmers are eligible to take part in the Conservation Reserve by shifting general cropland into the Reserve, and putting it to conservation use.

There will be two types of Conservation Reserve payments:

1. A payment either in cash or conservation materials and services for carrying out a conservation practice on the designated Conservation Reserve acres. This payment may represent up to 80 percent of the cost of establishing the practice.

2. An annual cash payment for the period of the Conservation Reserve contract, beginning with the year the contract becomes effective. The per-acre rate of annual payments—averaging about \$10 an acre nationally—will vary according to the relative productivity of land in the area.

Contracts will be for 3 to 5 years if the land is already in an approved cover crop; from 5 to 10 years if approved cover must be established; and for 10 to 15 years if trees are to be planted.

Farmers may plant the Conservation Reserve acreage to approved grasses, legumes, or trees, or devote it to a soil, water, forest, or wildlife conservation practice. They may not harvest a crop from the reserved acres, or graze them unless permission is given in an emergency.

Farmers will not be able to earn both ACP and Conservation Reserve payments for carrying out conservation practices.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Participation in the SOIL BANK will not reduce the farm's future acreage allotments or marketing quotas. Allotment "history" is protected under the programs.

Adequate safeguards are provided in the SOIL BANK programs to protect the interests of tenants and sharecroppers.

To be eligible to take part in the SOIL BANK (either Acreage or Conservation Reserve), a farmer must not exceed any basic crop allotment or SOIL BANK corn base acreage established for his farm.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committees can give specific information on the application of SOIL BANK programs for local areas—and for individual farms.

County agricultural agents, farmer-committeemen and other representatives of State and Federal agricultural agencies and services can supply general information.

Every effort is being made to get the facts to all producers, but farmers themselves should ask for any additional information they may need.

FARMERS WHO WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE SOIL BANK PROGRAMS (either the Acreage Reserve or the Conservation Reserve) SHOULD SEE THEIR COUNTY ASC COMMITTEE.